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September 8, 1997

Alex Hildebrand  
23443 S. Hays Road  
Manteca, CA 95337

Dear Alex:

Thank you for your letter of August 24, 1997 concerning the influence of the Delta Mendota Canal (DMC) on the quality of San Joaquin River water. Studies by the Department of Water Resources support a hypothesis that a primary source of salt in the DMC is San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean, and that a significant proportion of the salts in the San Joaquin River is derived from this source, through the DMC. Evidence to support this hypothesis is seen in the fact that the ratio of bromide to chloride in sea water is about 0.0034. Analysis of samples from the Sacramento River at Mallard Island, in the western Delta, indicates the Br:Cl ratio is the same. This ratio remains constant at the DMC intake, and at Vernalis on the San Joaquin River.

These data support your perspective that reducing intrusion of Bay water would result in reduced chloride and bromide exported through the DMC and returned to the Delta through the San Joaquin River.

We have not seen Dr. G.T. Orlob's report of August 10, 1997, and would appreciate your providing us with a copy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lester A. Snow', is written over a horizontal line.

Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director

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**CALFED Agencies**

**California** The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Water Resources  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
State Water Resources Control Board

**Federal** Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service